

great propaganda campaign in favour of the
 proposals of
 the Minority In his younger days, as has
 been described,
 Sidney had been a highly effective
 propagandist, since
 marriage, the field, if not the aim, for the
 influencing of
 opinion had changed, they worked on
 committees, in the
 study, and behind the scenes Now, they
 came right out
 into the open and conducted, on a grand scale,
 and with all
 the limelight possible turned on to them, a
 campaign of
 publicity, advertisement and pressure, at once
 splendidly
 organised, and highly spectacular They
 personally ad-
 dressed hundreds of meetings, large and
 small, and most
 of them very large, up and down the country
 They organ-
 ised Conferences, national and regional They
 ran Summer
 Schools They set up branches and
 committees They
 gathered up an army of highly enthusiastic
 volunteers, as
 well as an expert paid staff They ran a
 newspaper and a
 large office They used their unrivalled social
 and political
 connexions to the full, to rope in influential
 support, and
 get hold of resounding names They did in
 fact rope in
 some very noteworthy people, from
 Winston Churchill
 to Rupert Brooke Winston presided over a
 great meeting
 in the St James's Hall, Rupert Brooke and
 Ashley Dukes
 were among those who delivered leaflets from
 bicycles in
 rural areas Other equally surprising
 people did other
 kinds of propaganda While Sidney
 talked to bankers
 and to business men, Beatrice, equipped with
 new clothes,
 had society ladies to luncheon They were

ubiquitous and
untiring They spoke more and more
eloquently They
wrote more and more assiduously
An imposing National Committee for the
Break-up of
the Poor Laws was brought into existence, with
Russell
Wakefield (who had become Dean of Norwich)
as Chairman, Mrs Webb as Secretary, and a most
impressive array
of celebrities—what are called by
propagandists "national
figures"—among its members According to the
classifica-